

BEDDING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 310



BEDDING

This practice involves forming the surface of flat, poorly drained land into a series of parallel ridges and furrows. The practice is used to create a warm, dry planting bed for establishment of vegetation.

The ridges and furrows minimize ponding, provide gradients for removing excess water, permit efficient operation of equipment, and help eliminate mosquito production.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Bedding is a relatively low cost practice that improves surface drainage and creates an elevated, more favorable planting condition for establishment of field crops, trees, and other types of vegetation. It does not apply to the cultural practice of “listing” or bedding cropland on an annual basis.

Beds run in the direction of the general slope so that drainage can be provided without causing erosion. Engineering surveys are not needed when the general slope of the land is known. However, the furrows are to be graded toward a natural or constructed outlet with sufficient capacity and protection from erosion.